

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 67th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON TAXATION

Call to Order: Chair Becky Beard, on March 11, 2021 at 8:00 AM, in Room 152 Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Becky Beard, Chair (R)
Rep. Dave Fern, Vice Chair (D)
Rep. Tom Welch, Vice Chair (R)
Rep. Kim Abbott (D)
Rep. Larry Brewster (R)
Rep. Alice Buckley (D)
Rep. Mary Ann Dunwell (D)
Rep. Paul Fielder (R)
Rep. Joshua Kassmier (R)
Rep. Scot Kerns (R)
Rep. Rhonda Knudsen (R)
Rep. Marty Malone (R)
Rep. Braxton Mitchell (R)
Rep. Lola Sheldon-Galloway (R)
Rep. Mark Thane (D)
Rep. Jeremy Trebas (R)

Members Excused:

Rep. Caleb Hinkle (R)
Rep. Marilyn Marler (D)

Members Absent: None

Staff Present:

Megan Moore, Legislative Branch
Jacquie Simmons, Remote Meeting Coordinator
Kathy Sangray, Committee Secretary

Audio Committees: These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing & Date Posted: SB 133, 3/8/2021; SB 212, 3/8/2021; SB 257, 3/8/2021; SB 262, 3/8/2021

Executive Action: HB 191, SB 51, SB 52, SB 126, SB 154, SB 193, SB 205

08:02:04 Rep. Marler joined the meeting

HEARING ON SB 133

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

08:02:54 Sen. Greg Hertz (R), SD 6, opened the hearing on SB 133, Revise property tax appraisal and tax appeal process.

Proponents' Testimony:

08:06:21 Sam Sill, Montana Association of Realtors (MAR)

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony:

08:07:54 Kory Hofland, Montana Department of Revenue (DOR)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

08:08:33 Rep. Brewster
08:09:11 Sen. Hertz
08:09:23 Rep. Dunwell
08:10:08 Kory Hofland, DOR
08:10:39 Rep. Malone
08:11:08 Kory Hofland, DOR
08:11:55 Rep. Thane
08:12:41 Kory Hofland, DOR
08:13:03 Rep. Sheldon-Galloway
08:13:22 Sen. Hertz

Closing by Sponsor:

08:13:49 Sen. Hertz

HEARING ON SB 212

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

08:14:11 Sen. Ryan Osmundson (R), SD 15, opened the hearing on SB 212, Revise laws related to property tax bills.

[EXHIBIT\(tah49a01\)](#)

Proponents' Testimony: None

Opponents' Testimony:

08:17:34 Eric Bryson, Montana Association of Counties (MACo)
08:23:57 Tim Burton, Montana League of Cities and Towns (MLCT)
08:26:09 Treasurer Terri Kunz, Jefferson County; Montana County Treasurer's Association (MCTA)

[EXHIBIT\(tah49a02\)](#)

08:28:42 Treasurer Betty Romo, Roosevelt County; Montana County Treasurer's Association (MCTA)

[EXHIBIT\(tah49a03\)](#)

Informational Testimony:

08:33:46 Ed Caplis, Montana Department of Revenue (DOR)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

08:35:29 Rep. Sheldon-Galloway
08:36:02 Eric Bryson, MACo
08:37:08 Rep. Dunwell
08:38:20 Eric Bryson, MACo
08:43:13 Rep. Malone
08:44:07 Sen. Osmundson

Closing by Sponsor:

08:44:26 Sen. Osmundson

HEARING ON SB 257**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

08:47:26 Sen. Jason Small (R), SD 21, opened the hearing on SB 257, Prohibit local governments from imposing carbon penalties, fees, or taxes.

Proponents' Testimony:

08:49:26 Peggy Trenk, Treasure State Resource Association (TSRA)
08:51:09 Dwight Rose, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers 44, (IBEW)
08:51:48 Shelby DeMars, Montana Association of Oil, Gas and Coal Counties (MAOGCC)
08:53:24 Alan Olson, Montana Petroleum Association (MPA)
08:53:49 Molly Schwend, Montana Coal Council (MCC)
08:54:57 Bob Story, Montana Taxpayers Association (MonTax)

Opponents' Testimony:

08:56:05 Ruben Castren, Montana Public Interest Research Group (MontPIRG)
08:57:34 Whiner Chase, Montana Conservation Voters (MCV)
08:58:23 Margaret Bentwood, League of Women Voters of Montana (LWV)

[EXHIBIT\(tah49a04\)](#)

09:00:33 David Strohmaier, Missoula County

[EXHIBIT\(tah49a05\)](#)

09:02:27 Conor Ploeger, Montana Environmental Information Center (MEIC)
09:03:55 Amy Seaman, Montana Audubon

Informational Testimony: None**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

09:07:15 Rep. Dunwell
09:08:23 Sen. Small
09:11:34 Rep. Marler
09:13:14 Sen. Small
09:15:07 Rep. Thane
09:16:21 Sen. Small
09:16:54 Rep. Dunwell

09:17:24 Sen. Small

Closing by Sponsor:

09:18:27 Sen. Small

HEARING ON SB 262

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

09:19:43 Sen. Mike Cuffe (R), SD 1, opened the hearing on SB 262, Revise forest lands taxation advisory committee.

Proponents' Testimony:

09:25:03 Bob Story, Montana Taxpayers Association (MonTax)

09:26:46 Steve Marks, Marks Ranch

09:30:26 Patrick McKelvey, Montana Tree Farm System

EXHIBIT(tah49a06)

09:37:31 Jessie Luther, Idaho Forest Group

09:39:15 Paul R. McKenzie, F.H. Stoltze Land & Lumber Co.

EXHIBIT(tah49a07)

09:45:18 Jason Todhunter, Montana Logging Association

09:47:07 Gordy Sanders, Pyramid Mountain Lumber, Inc

EXHIBIT(tah49a08)

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony:

09:50:38 Kory Hofland, Montana Department of Revenue (DOR)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

09:51:16 Vice Chair Fern

09:52:07 Sen. Cuffe

09:53:40 Vice Chair Fern

09:54:13 Paul McKenzie, F.H. Stoltze Land & Lumber Co.

09:54:45 Rep. Rhonda Knudsen

09:55:02 Sen. Cuffe

Closing by Sponsor:

09:56:21 Sen. Cuffe

09:58:13 Megan Moore, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

09:59:00 Chair Beard

10:01:21 Megan Moore, LSD

10:01:54 Chair Beard

10:02:32 Recess

10:27:26 Reconvened

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 191

10:27:50 Megan Moore, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

10:28:33 **Motion:** Rep. Welch moved that **HB 191 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

Discussion:

10:28:41 Megan Moore, LSD

10:29:43 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote. Rep. C. Hinkle voted by proxy.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 51

10:31:15 **Motion:** Rep. Welch moved that **SB 51 BE CONCURRED IN.**

Discussion:

10:31:29 Megan Moore, LSD

10:31:54 **Motion:** Rep. Dunwell moved that **SB 51 BE AMENDED.**

EXHIBIT(tah49a09)

Discussion:

10:32:22 Megan Moore, LSD

10:33:00 Rep. Sheldon-Galloway

10:33:32 Rep. Dunwell

10:33:39 Rep. Trebas

10:33:49 Rep. Dunwell

10:34:45 **Vote:** Motion failed 6-12 by roll call vote with Rep. Abbott, Rep. Buckley, Rep. Dunwell, Rep. Fern, Rep. Marler and Rep. Thane voting aye. Rep. C. Hinkle voted by proxy.

10:36:12 Chair Beard

10:36:26 Rep. Thane

10:37:20 Rep. Malone

10:37:56 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. Welch moved that **SB 51 BE CONCURRED IN.** Motion carried 12-6 by roll call vote with Rep. Abbott, Rep. Buckley, Rep. Dunwell, Rep. Fern, Rep. Marler and Rep. Thane voting no. Rep. C. Hinkle voted by proxy. Rep. Beard will carry the bill.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 52

10:39:21 Chair Beard

10:39:31 Megan Moore, LSD

10:40:10 **Motion:** Rep. Welch moved that **SB 52 BE CONCURRED IN.**

Discussion:

10:40:25 Rep. Sheldon-Galloway

10:41:15 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote. Rep. C. Hinkle voted by proxy. Rep. Welch will carry the bill.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 126

10:42:55 Megan Moore, LSD

10:43:26 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. Welch moved that **SB 126 BE CONCURRED IN**. Motion carried 12-6 by roll call vote with Rep. Abbott, Rep. Buckley, Rep. Dunwell, Rep. Fern, Rep. Marler and Rep. Thane voting no. Rep. C. Hinkle voted by proxy. Rep. Sheldon-Galloway will carry the bill.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 154

10:45:31 Megan Moore, LSD

10:46:08 **Motion:** Rep. Welch moved that **SB 154 BE CONCURRED IN**.

Discussion:

10:46:17 Vice Chair Fern

10:46:55 Rep. Dunwell

10:47:52 **Vote:** Motion carried 16-2 by roll call vote with Rep. Abbott and Rep. Dunwell voting no. Rep. C. Hinkle voted by proxy. Rep. Malone will carry the bill.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 193

10:50:04 Megan Moore, LSD

10:50:28 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. Welch moved that **SB 193 BE CONCURRED IN**. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Rep. C. Hinkle voted by proxy. Rep. Kerns will carry the bill.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 205

10:52:13 Megan Moore, LSD

10:52:39 **Motion:** Rep. Welch moved that **SB 205 BE CONCURRED IN**.

Discussion:

10:52:41 Vice Chair Fern

10:53:04 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Rep. C. Hinkle voted by proxy. Rep. Fern will carry the bill.

10:53:42 Chair Beard

10:55:03 Rep. Marler

10:55:54 Rep. Sheldon-Galloway
10:56:03 Megan Moore, LSD
10:56:40 Chair Beard

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 10:56:44

Kathy Sangray, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([tah49aad.pdf](#))